

Amendment
Serial No. 10/071,301
Attorney Docket No. 020588

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 4 has been canceled. Further, claim 13 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of claim 16. Accordingly, claim 16 has been canceled and claims 17-18 have been amended to depend on claim 13 instead of claim 16.

It is submitted that the amendments do not raise any new issues. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-15, and 16-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 8, and 13 are the only independent claims.

In the Office Action, claim 4 is objected to.

Claim 4 has been canceled. Accordingly, the objection is moot.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 402135402 ("Ishizaki") in view of US 6512562 to Kobayashi ("Kobayashi") and US 3,531,351 to Buzzell ("Buzzell").

It is alleged in the Office Action that Ishizaki discloses adhering a PVA polarizer and a cellulose acetate protective film using a boric acid or borax solution, Kobayashi discloses using dichroic substance in polarizer and TAC for protective film, and Buzzell suggests using a catalyst.

The rejections are respectfully traversed. Buzzell is completely silent about using a cross-linking agent in an adhesive layer, as confirmed in the previous appeal. Thus, even if, arguendo, a person of the art were motivated to attempt to refer to Buzzell to modify the adhesive layer of

Ishizaki (which Applicants deny), that person would not find any suggestion or motivation to use the catalyst of Buzzell, since the catalyst of Buzzell is not used for an adhesive layer. In particular, Buzzell does not provide any guidance as to whether or how a cross-linking agent and a catalyst might be usable in an adhesive layer, let alone whether or how an improved adhesion resistance might be obtainable.

On the contrary, Buzzell uses dyeable orientable polymers (a mordanting layer) which are basic nitrogen-containing polymers, and one example thereof is para-trimethyl ammonium benzaldehyde tosylate acetal of polyvinyl alcohol (see Buzzell at col. 5, lines 9-25). The cross-linking agent is used to maintain the dimensional stability of the basic nitrogen-containing polymer (see Buzzell at col. 5, lines 25-29). Improved results at lower costs can be obtained with the polymer when a matrix polymer is utilized in conjunction therewith, and polyvinyl alcohol is recited as one example of the matrix polymers (see Buzzell at col. 5, lines 29-36).

Thus, according to Buzzell, para-trimethyl ammonium benzaldehyde tosylate is reacted with polyvinyl alcohol to create a substituted polyvinyl alcohol bearing acetal linkages as the basic nitrogen-containing polymer. Further, Buzzell teaches that any cross-linking agent that is capable of reacting with the remaining alcoholic hydroxyls of the polyvinyl alcohol of this embodiment, or polyvinyl alcohol when such is used as the matrix, can be used (see Buzzell at col. 5, lines 37-44). Boric acid is indicated as one example of the cross-linking agent (see Buzzell at col. 5, lines 44-51).

Further, a diluent, a catalyst for the cross-linking agent or the like (generally, an inorganic acid or base, depending upon the type of the cross-linking agent) can be used in the process of Buzzell (see Buzzell at col. 5, lines 66-75). In the preferred embodiment of Buzzell, HCl is used as the catalyst with the glyoxal (col. 6, lines 1-2). According to Example 1 of Buzzell, a mixture of para-trimethyl ammonium benzaldehyde tosylate, water, polyvinyl alcohol and hydrochloric acid is subjected to a reaction, and a diluent and glyoxal are added to this mixture. After adjustment of the viscosity, the mixture is cast onto a belt of cellulose acetate and dried to form a film.

In summary, it is immediately clear from Buzzell that this reference refers to the use of a cross-linking agent and a catalyst only when using PVA as one material for producing a basic nitrogen-containing polymer. Thus, Buzzell does not provide any guidance regarding using a catalyst in an adhesive.

In addition, in Buzzell, the cross-linking agent is used in the mordanting layer (dyeable orientable polymers), and the catalyst is only added to the cross-linking agent in the mordanting layer (see Buzzell at col. 5, lines 25-29). The mordanting layer of Buzzell is completely distinct from the adhesive layer. Therefore, the fact that Buzzell uses a catalyst with its cross-linking agent in the mordanting layer of Buzzell does not provide any guidance regarding any purposes and/or effectiveness of a catalyst in an adhesive layer such as in Ishizaki.

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In conclusion, the features of the presently claimed invention are not taught or suggested in the cited combination of references, except in hindsight. Therefore, the present claims are not obvious over the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

If there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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